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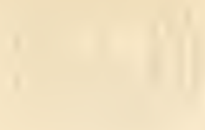
IMPORTED PEANUTS IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET.

Orient Dominant as Chief Source of Supply--Orientals
Replace Virginias in the West.

Washington, D. C.

The average person, accustomed to buying his small bag of peanuts at the whistling peanut roasting machine in front of a fruit store, thinks of peanuts, if he thinks of the matter at all, as coming from Virginia. He would be surprised to learn that the American peanut market has been materially influenced for many years by the importation of foreign-grown nuts, says the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture. Even as far back as the fiscal year 1910 a total of 29,276,235 pounds were brought into the United States, chiefly from Spain, France, and Japan. Receipts reached their highest point in the year ending June 30, 1920, when 132,412,423 pounds of peanuts were imported by the United States, most of which were grown in China. Of this amount 120,344,425 pounds were shelled and 12,067,998 pounds unshelled.

Shelled peanuts have constituted the greater part of the imports during recent years. A considerable portion of these oriental peanuts are of the same general type as those grown in the peanut belt around Suffolk and Norfolk. The United States Department of Agriculture, in figuring domestic peanut production, considers that a bushel of unshelled Virginia peanuts weighing 22 pounds will shell out 14 $\frac{2}{3}$ pounds, or 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent of the unshelled weight. Using this basis of comparison and converting shelled figures to unshelled equivalents, our imports during the fiscal year 1919-20 totaled 192,584,636 pounds, or nearly 9 million bushels, as compared with a domestic production during the 1920 season of less than 36 million bushels. In addition to the imports of peanuts during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, 170,160,367 pounds of peanut oil was imported, which called for the crushing of an even larger volume of peanuts abroad than were actually shipped here. For the fiscal year 1920-21 imports of peanuts totaled 47,989,230 pounds and peanut oil 18,676,181 pounds. The large importation of peanut oil during 1919-20, together with the low prices at which it was offered, was a material



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factor in curtailing the peanut oil production in the United States. The past effect of foreign peanuts on the domestic peanut industry is therefore seen to be of distinct importance..

India and Africa, especially Senegal and Gambia, in the past have been the world's heaviest peanut producing countries, although few nuts from these sources have been marketed in the United States, except when transshipped through ports of France and England and other European countries. Spain was formerly one of the most important sources of our foreign supply on account of shipping difficulties. Imports from that country, however, ceased entirely during the war.

China Leading Original Source of Supply.

For a number of years China has produced the bulk of the peanuts imported into the United States. Shantung is the leading peanut producing region in China, as its soil is particularly adapted to the growing of peanuts. The nut grown in that Province is said to be larger than that grown in any other part of China, and contains more oil. The Provinces of Honan and Chihli rank next to Shantung in the production of peanuts. Peanut "farms" in Shantung are small plats of ground, often not over 2 acres in area. Yet from the produce of small plats like this, a Chinese farmer secures a living not only for himself and family but occasionally gives his sons a college education. This is all the more remarkable in that most Chinese farmers use only primitive methods of cultivation.

The peanut business in Shantung has largely been taken over by the Japanese as the successors of the Germans. Japanese traders at Tsingtau annually export large quantities of peanuts and peanut oil to the United States by way of Kobe and other Japanese ports. Kobe has consequently come to be considered one of the leading peanut and peanut oil markets of the Far East. Japan exports some peanuts, but the greater portion of the nuts tabulated by the United States Customs officials as coming from Japan are actually produced in China. American consular officials in China have reported that trans-Pacific freight rates in the past have been such that nuts could be shipped from Tsingtau to Kobe, Japan, or to Dairen, Manchuria, and thence to the United States at lower rates than by shipping directly from Tsingtau. Considerable quantities of peanuts are also imported from Hongkong, but these too are mostly grown in China. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, China, Japan, and Hongkong shipped 120,042,879 pounds of our total import of



132,412,423 pounds. One of the significant features of the peanut trade during that year was the large importation from the Dutch East Indies, principally Java, whence 5,824,644 pounds were received. Java nuts are said to be heavier and more oily than the Chinese product.

Practically all of the peanuts imported by the United States from Asiatic sources are of the Virginia type, such as are used in this country for roasting and for "jumbo shelled" nuts. In fact, the story is told that this variety of peanut was introduced into China many years ago by an American missionary, and was for a while the object of prejudice due to its foreign origin. It was first called the "foreign devil" nut, but later, when its possibilities began to be understood, the name was changed to "flower-begotten nut."

Found in Leading Markets.

Shelled oriental peanuts are to be found in most of the leading consuming markets of the country, and are sold for the same purposes as Virginias--to be used in the manufacture of peanut candy, peanut butter, salted nuts, peanut cookies, and the like. The output of peanut butter and salted peanut industries on the Pacific Coast is said to have been seriously handicapped by the fact the oriental goods of poor quality were often used. A mixture of Spanish type peanuts is also sometimes resorted to, as this is considered desirable to give the butter the proper consistency. Many Pacific coast manufacturers are said to make peanut butter from oriental goods alone. West of the Mississippi River Asiatic peanuts have almost entirely displaced the domestic nuts for roasting.

Until the emergency tariff bill was enacted, imported peanuts were taxed only $3/4$ cent a pound, and unshelled nuts $3/8$ cent a pound. The present act, effective until November 27, prescribes a duty of 3 cents a pound on the importation of all foreign peanuts. The imports of peanuts have already shown a decline since the imposition of this duty, and its effect on receipts during the remaining period of its enforcement will be studied with much interest.

The exports of peanuts from the United States have recently been only a fraction of the stock imported. Canada has received the great bulk of the peanuts going out of the country, both Virginia and Spanish varieties being shipped in volume to the larger eastern Canadian cities. Smaller quantities have been exported to Great Britain and the Latin-American countries. The

exports of peanuts during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, totaled 13,149,417 pounds of which Canada took 10,555,932 pounds.

The accompanying ~~table~~ indicates the trend of the import and export trade of the United States in peanuts beginning July 1, 1911, and ending June 30, 1921, as reported by the Department of Commerce.

Imports and Exports of Peanuts During Fiscal Years
1911-12 to 1920-21.

Year	Unshelled	Imports Shelled	Total unshelled and shelled	Exports
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1911-12	12,930,563	2,627,475	15,558,038	5,920,711
1912-13	12,281,580	6,801,415	19,082,995	7,301,361
1913-14	17,472,631	27,077,158	44,549,789	8,054,817
1914-15	14,540,982	9,643,691	24,184,673	5,875,076
1915-16	9,020,848	19,392,832	28,413,680	8,669,430
1916-17	7,806,012	27,180,748	34,986,760	22,413,297
1917-18	3,150,747	73,362,215	76,512,962	12,488,209
1918-19	1,444,221	19,462,080	20,905,301	13,596,660
1919-20	12,067,998	120,344,425	132,412,423	14,137,956
1920-21	5,361,196	42,628,034	47,989,230	13,149,417

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